

From: Frank Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a thirty-year veteran of the information technology industry I know how difficult it is produce great software with broad vision and scope that works well with the products of thousands of hardware and software vendors. Microsoft has done this far better than any other vendor. No one else is close. That is clearly terrific for consumers, and for thousands of other vendors, though perhaps not for Sun, Oracle, et al. It seems to me that the Justice Department settlement is tough but fair, and I am delighted as a citizen of Illinois that my Attorney General is for the settlement, just as I was pleased that he did not support the breakup. I am amazed that the attorneys general of the other states believe that their proposal will be a benefit to consumers. Confiscating Microsoft's intellectual property and disincanting it will in no way to lead to consumer benefit.

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